

# BENEFITS PROVIDED TO VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN ADDITION TO DISABILITY COMPENSATION

FACT SHEET | NOVEMBER 2013

In addition to disability compensation for Veterans, VA provides Veterans and their families numerous other benefits, including:

- **Readjustment Benefits, including Education** (<http://www.gibill.va.gov/>) and **Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment** (<http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre/>):
  - Over \$13.2 billion annually to over one million Veterans and eligible family members
  - This fall, VA served its one millionth Post-9/11 GI Bill beneficiary, an Army Veteran and New Jersey community college student.
  - VA is working with schools, community organizations, and other partners to ensure beneficiaries have all the information they need to best utilize their VA education benefits to graduate and find a good job. More than 70% of students using VA education benefits (over 750,000) are covered under the President's Principles of Excellence, which offers guidelines that promote transparency and student success.
  - In FY 2013, the Vet Success on Campus program expanded from 24 to 94 campuses, increasing access to benefits assistance and vocational rehabilitation counseling.
  - This fall, VA launched new tools to help beneficiaries learn more about their vocational aptitudes and select an education institution.
    - The second edition of the '[Factors to Consider When Choosing a School](#)' guide offers future students steps to take when researching and choosing a school.
    - [CareerScope®](#) is a free, new tool featured on gibill.va.gov that measures a student's aptitude and interests through a self-administered online test, identifying potential career paths.
    - Launching soon, the GI Bill® Comparison Tool will allow students to research and compare schools, including key indicators like average student loan debt and graduation rates.
  - VR&E participant wages increased 480 percent in FY 2013, from an average of \$7,100 at application to \$41,450 at rehabilitation.
- **Home loans:** <http://www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/>
  - VA-guaranteed loans have maintained the lowest foreclosure rate among all categories of mortgage loans for almost five and a half years.
  - In FY 2013, VA guaranteed 630,000 home loans, the highest volume in the program's history; those borrowers will save more than \$35 billion over the life of their loans.
  - VA helped nearly 74,000 Veterans avoid foreclosure in FY 2013.
- **Life Insurance:** <http://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/>
  - 9th largest life insurance enterprise
  - \$1.3 trillion in coverage for 6.7 million clients under 10 separate lines of insurance protection
  - 93 percent satisfaction rating
- **Pension:** <http://www.benefits.va.gov/pension/>
  - In FY 2013, over \$5.1 billion in pension benefits went to 308,000 Veterans and 210,000 survivors.
  - 42% of Veterans pension beneficiaries and 75% of survivors pension beneficiaries are over age 75.
- **Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC):** [http://benefits.va.gov/COMPENSATION/types-dependency\\_and\\_indemnity.asp](http://benefits.va.gov/COMPENSATION/types-dependency_and_indemnity.asp)
  - In FY 2013, VA paid over \$5.7 billion in DIC benefits to 377,000 survivors.
  - 89% of DIC beneficiaries are age 55 or older
- **Burial Benefits:** [http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits\\_book/benefits\\_chap07.asp](http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book/benefits_chap07.asp)
  - During FY 2013, VA provided over \$166 million in one-time burial benefits.